

Application Serial No. 09/943,554
Attorney Docket No. 60027.0306US01

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for prepaying roaming minutes, comprising ~~the steps of:~~

crediting a user's account with prepaid roaming minutes;

determining if the prepaid roaming minutes were purchased at a time greater than a predefined time before a call is made;

if the prepaid roaming minutes were purchased at a time greater than the predefined time, subtracting roaming minutes from the user's account when the call[[s are]] is made outside the home calling area defined by the user's calling plan; and [[.]]

if the prepaid roaming minutes were not purchased at a time greater than the predefined time, subtracting the roaming minutes from the user's account at a non-discounted rate when the call is made outside the home calling area defined by the user's calling plan.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of:~~
crediting prepaid roaming minutes at a discounted rate.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of:~~
crediting prepaid roaming minutes at a discounted rate proportional to the time purchased.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of:~~
crediting a user's account with prepaid roaming minutes periodically.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of:~~
receiving a purchase order for roaming minutes from a user.

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6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of:~~
receiving a code before dialing a roaming call to access the user's account.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of:~~
deleting the roaming minutes after a predefined time.
8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the predefined time is about six months.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~said subtracting step further comprises the step of:~~
subtracting roaming minutes from the user's account when calls are made outside the home calling area defined by the user's calling plan if the roaming minutes were credited to the user's account at least a predefined time before the time that the call was made.
10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the predefined time is about one month.
11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~said crediting step further comprises the step of:~~
crediting a user's account with a block of prepaid roaming minutes.
12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the block of prepaid roaming minutes is in increments of at least about 10 minutes.
13. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of:~~
notifying the user when a call is roaming.
14. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of:~~
notifying the user of roaming minutes in the roaming minutes account.

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15. (Currently Amended) A system for prepaying roaming minutes, comprising:
a computer; and
a software program loaded onto ~~said~~the computer configured to:
credit a user's account with prepaid roaming minutes;
determine if the prepaid roaming minutes were purchased a predefined
time before a call is made;
if the prepaid roaming minutes were purchased at a time greater than the
predefined time, subtract the roaming minutes from the user's account when the call is
made outside the home calling area defined by the user's calling plan; and
if the prepaid roaming minutes were not purchased at a time greater than
the predefined time, subtract the roaming minutes from the user's account at a non-
discounted rate when calls are made outside the home calling area defined by the user's
calling plan.
16. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein ~~said~~the software program is further
configured to credit a user's account with prepaid roaming minutes at a discounted rate.
17. (Original) The system of claim 15, further comprising:
a computer network in communication with ~~said~~the computer and configured for
allowing the user to access the account.
18. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein ~~said~~the software is further configured
to protect the user account with a password.
19. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein ~~said~~the computer network is
configured to allow a user to access the user's account using voice mail.
20. (Currently Amended) A system for prepaying roaming minutes, comprising:

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a telephone; and

a software program loaded onto ~~said~~the telephone configured to:

credit a user's account with prepaid roaming minutes at a discounted rate;

determine if the prepaid roaming minutes were purchased a predefined time before a call is made;

if the prepaid roaming minutes were purchased at a time greater than the predefined time, subtract the roaming minutes from the user's account when the call is made outside the home calling area defined by the user's calling plan; and

if the prepaid roaming minutes were not purchased at a time greater than the predefined time, subtract roaming minutes from the user's account at a non-discounted rate when calls are made outside the home calling area defined by the user's calling plan.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Original) The system of claim 20, further comprising:

a computer network in communication with ~~said~~the telephone and configured for allowing the user to access the account.

23. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein ~~said~~the software is further configured to protect the account with a password.

24. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein ~~said~~the computer network is configured to allow a user to access the user's account using voice mail.

25. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein ~~said~~the telephone is a wireless telephone.

26. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein ~~said~~the telephone is a digital telephone.